



# News Release

## US Army Corps of Engineers

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## PRADO DAM SAFE ACCORDING TO THE U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**Los Angeles** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discovered minor seepage on January 13th on the downstream face of Prado Dam, which at this time does not threaten the safety of the dam. The Corps has been constantly monitoring the situation and taking precautionary measures since the discovery. The dam is located within the borders of both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties at the juncture of I-71 and I-91 near the city of Corona. The recent storm and flood events have resulted in near record pool levels behind Prado Dam. As a result of the discovery, the Corps increased the release of water from the dam to 10,000 cubic feet per second to bring down the level of water behind the Prado Dam. The Corps notified Riverside, Orange and San Bernardino county emergency operation offices of the increase in releases and potential problems with the dam in the construction at 10 p.m. on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

"We have had an inspection team at the dam continuously and based on their observations, the minor seepage has remained steady, and they do not see an imminent danger to the dam," according to COL Alex Dornstauder, Los Angeles District Commander. "We are continuing to monitor the situation and we are taking appropriate action to mitigate the seepage. Our contractor has been working overnight placing material on the downstream face of the dam where the seepage is occurring at the moment as a precautionary measure against potential failure in the dam.

We are working closely with local agencies and officials in the precautionary efforts they are taking in order to ensure the safety of people and preservation of property in the immediately impacted area. Our primary objective is to continue working with them to prevent loss of life and property and ensure that maximum safety in the dam area is maintained.

The seepage is located in an area that is under construction by a Corps contractor to build new outlet works as part of overall flood control improvements to Prado Dam. The Corps is working with all concerned agencies in managing the situation.

BACKGROUND:

Prado Dam is an earthfill structure 106 feet high and 2,280 feet long, about 30 miles upstream of the mouth of the Santa Ana River. It currently forms a 196,000 acre-foot reservoir for flood control.

Built in 1941 at a Federal cost of \$9.5 million. The dam provides flood protection to Orange County communities adjacent to the Santa Ana River.